Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1791 - December 9 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1791 with a release date of Friday, December 9th, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Utah hams are called up as winds cause emergency dispatch communications delays; the FCC grants secondary use status to micro-power medical networks at 70 centimeters; an Afghanistan broadcaster becomes an intruder on 40 meters and an old holiday poem is revisited from a ham radio point of view. Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1791 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: UTAH HAMS ASKED TO ASSIST AFTER SHERIFF DISPATCH CENTER OVERLOAD

Ham radio operators were called out to assist authorities after the Davis County Utah Sheriff's dispatch service suffered a communications overload. We have more in this report:

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As a wind storm swept across the city of Bountiful, Utah, on Thursday, December 1st, the local sheriff's office soon found its emergency response dispatch system overloaded. At times precious minutes were being wasted as operators tried to contact units in the field only to find their messages delayed. That's when Davis County Sheriff's Lieutenant Brad Wilcox decided to call in some assistance from the local ham radio community. Contacted was Gary Johnson, N7DND, of the Davis County Amateur Radio Club who picks up the story from here:

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N7DND: "When he said that the telephone system and the UCAN system were becoming saturated with phone calls and emergencies, he wanted a backup. So he asked us to activate."
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It took Johnson only a short time to get an information net established on the club repeater with a total of 18 hams responding. The next step was to find out where they were needed and the jobs they might be required to do:

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N7DND: "I asked the Sheriff what were his first needs and his first needs were for two people to come to the Sheriff's Office and go to the ecomm room and act as people who would work with him and the Sheriff's Office to pass health and welfare traffic. So that was about 10 in the morning and it evolved from there."

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And evolve it did. Again Gary Johnson, N7DND:

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N7DND: "There were 18 operators that took part. I continued to be Net Control and worked through that as we needed to. About 1 p.m. I turned Net Control over to another amateur at our local hospital and then I went down and assumed the responsibility with Bountiful city and activated the people that I needed to in order to take care of their health and welfare needs.

"The net went on until about 16:00 Utah time. At that point the Sheriff released us to go back to work for our owqn served agencies. The next morning we started at around 8 a.m. and we were working again until about 5 p.m. that night. 17:00 hours that at night."

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The hams were activated a third time on Sunday, December 4th to provide communications assistance for volunteers from the local L-D-S church took on the arduous task of cleaning away numerous fallen tress. Johnson says that the ham radio communications team assisted in the dispatch of people to the locations where they were needed and directed the trucks loaded with storm debris to the dump areas. Johnson says that by early evening the clean-up was complete and the ham radio volunteers were able to stand down.

With a hearty congratulations to the hams of Davis County Utah on a job well done I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

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The work performed by the volunteer ham radio operators was featured in a news report on K-S-L television in Salt Lake City. The story titled Ham Radio Come to the Rescue During Utah Wind Storm. You can see it on line at tinyurl.com/utah-windstorm-hams. (ARNewsline(tm))

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RESCUE RADIO: NO HAMS FOR MUMNBAI INDIA DISASTER SERVICE

DNA India reports on the lack of amateur radio operators for a ham radio emergency communications system set up in Mumbai. Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Butera-Howell, KB3TZD, has more:

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The DNA India news report says that in order to enhance its emergency communication system the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation or B-M-C has established ham radio stations at its headquarters and several other sites that it oversees. The only problem is that so far the B-M-C has not been able to find anyone to operate them.

To remedy this situation the B-M-C decided to send 40 of its disaster control operators for free amateur radio training. Now the six-month course has come to an abrupt end with no new operators produced by the effort.

An official speaking on condition of anonymity told the newspaper that the course to obtain an Indian ham radio license is very technical. It's actually part of a radio engineering program that normally takes two years to be completed. But the same training was being imparted in span of six months and making it all but impossible to grasp. The article infers that as a result of the complexity of the training that there were few who actually completed it.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Heather Butera-Howell, KB3TZD near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

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According to the DNA India article, even those who are able to pass India's ham radio exam still face other hurdles. It notes that the Indian amateur radio licensing system seems to be plagued with bureaucracy. After passing the licensing test it can take 12 to18 months for government officials to process the license application. More is on-line at tinyurl.com/India-emcomm-hams. (Southgate, DNA India)

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FCC NEWS: FCC GRANTS SECONDARY SERVICE ALLOCATION TO WIRELESS BROADBAND MEDICAL MICROPOWER NETWORKS

Ham radio will soon be sharing the 70 centimeter band with micro-power medical devices.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 30, the four-member FCC Commission unanimously agreed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413 to 457 MHz spectrum. These devices will be used on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules.

According to the FCC, these devices would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micropower networks or MMN's.

These new rules are the result of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making that the FCC released in March 2009. A Report & Order that will define these new rules is expected soon.

As hams already know, the Amateur Radio Service in the United States also has a secondary allocation on the 70 cm band from 430 to 450 MHz. While it's unlikely that these flea power devices will bother very many radio amateurs, its unknown what affect ham radio will have on the ability of these devices to share spectrum with hams or any other users

of the entire 413 to 457 MHz 70 centimeter allocation. (FCC, ARRL)

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INTRUDER WATCH: NATIONAL RADIO AFGHANISTAN ON 40 METERS

Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reports that National Radio Afghanistan is operating on 7 point 2 MHz in the amateur Radio 40 meter band. DJ9KR says via the IARU-Region 1 website that he monitored the station on November 28th as being centered on 7200 kHz and covering 7195 through 7205 kHz with its audio sidebands.

DJ9KR says that the best way to handle this situation is to inform your nation's telecommunications agency if you are suffering interference from National Radio of Afghanistan and ask them to file an international complaint. Another recommended procedure is to file a report with the Intruder Watch coordinator in your nation. (IARU-R1 Website)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS SHADOW BEACON EXPERIMENT POSTPONED

The recently announced Plasma Thrust space "Shadow-beacon" experiment using amateur radio has been postponed until after the delivery of a new rig next April. This, because of a problem with the current gear on-board the orbiting outpost.

Sergey Samburov RV3DR, of the Russian space corporation "Energia" is among those responsible for amateur radio operations from the ISS. He says that the onboard radio was self switched onto the standard simplex frequency of145.825 MHz instead of the required duplex 144.360 / 145.825 MHz digipeater mode because of the old age of the gear. It has been in use more than 10 years.

Samburov says that a new radio is planned to be delivered to the ISS by cargo vehicle in April. Because of this, Mission Control Center plans to hold the "Shadow-beacon" sessions in May or June of 2012. Look for more space related ham radio news items later on in this weeks report. (ARISS)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KC4HAZ repeater network serving all of Central Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: NEW EAS RULES BEFORE THE END OF 2011

According to Radio World Consultant Gary Timm's AWARE Forum Blog reports that the new EAS rules may be out by the end of this month. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports:

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In his postings postings Timm writes that based on two recent informal conversations with FCC staffers it was stated that the FCC intends to release its revised Emergency Alert System rules covering the use of the Common Alerting Protocol in EAS alerts by the end of 2011.

The FCC had released its proposed EAS Common Alerting Protocol rules last May 26th and has been considering the public comments it received on those proposed rules since that comment period closed on August 4th. The regulations will likely be the final EAS Common Alerting Protocol rules stated in an FCC Report and Order, and no further comment will be accepted on those implemented rules.

>From Charleston, West Virginia, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

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Timm writes that despite the follow-up investigation of problems involving last months national EAS test, the commission still feels it can meet its year-end target for release of the new rules. (CGC, B&C, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC AFFIRMS TWO FINES FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

The FCC fined two people for unauthorized operations of a radio station. In the first case the regulatory agency affirmed an earlier proposed $15,000 monetary forfeiture issued to John E. Criteser, Jr.. This, for operating an unlicensed transmitter on 95.1 MHz in Lake Park, Florida. The agency said in its decision that Criteser did not respond to an October notification.

In the second matter, the commission reaffirmed an earlier $10,000 fine against Neil Davis for operating an unlicensed transmitter on 96.1 MHz in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Davis too, did not respond to the initial Notice of Apparent Liability and that's why the FCC escalated the penalty to the level of forfeiture.

Both Criteser and Davis were given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. If they fail to respond this time their cases may be turned over to the Justice Department for collection. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FLORIDA CABLE COMPANY FINED FOR MULTIPLE INFRACTIONS

Still in Florida, the FCC has affirmed a $25,000 monetary forfeiture issued to St. George Cable, Inc which is the operator of the cable television system in St. George Island, Florida, for willful and repeated violation of sections 11.35(a), 76.605(a)(12), 76.611(a), and

76.1801 of the Commission's rules. The alleged violations involved St. George's failure to install Emergency Alert System equipment; operation of its cable system with excessive signal leakage; and failure to register its cable system with the Commission.

This past September 30th the Enforcement Bureau's Tampa Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $25,000 to St. George based on the then alleged violations. To date St. George has not filed a response. Based on the information before it, the FCC now says that it has affirmed the forfeiture and given the company the customary 30 days to pay the fine or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEWS: THREE CABLECASTERS GIVE UP CREATING THEIR OWN WIRELESS NETWORKS

Cable companies Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks are giving up on their idea of creating their own wireless network. On Friday, December 2nd the three cable giants announced that that they have agreed to sell their wireless licenses to Verizon Wireless and will instead become resellers of the Verizon Wireless service.

Cable companies have long held the ambitions to open a second service to challenge frontrunners AT&T and Verizon by setting up their own wireless networks. In the meantime, some of them have partnered with Sprint Nextel and Clearwire to offer wireless service. The deal between Comcast, Time Warner Bright House Networks with Verizon will net the three cable delivery service providers some $3.6 billion dollars. The complete story is on-line at tinyurl.com/wireless-cable-deal. (Published news reports)

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RADIO LAW: SPECTRUM AUCTION BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

A follow-up to last weeks story on a House Communications Subcommittee Spectrum Auction bill. In a 17 to 6 vote the Republican version of the spectrum incentive auction measure that would give the FCC the authority to pay broadcasters for voluntarily giving up spectrum to be auctioned for broadband use has been approved. The measure, backed by Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI, of Oregon also contains a funding clause to help broadcasters left behind for moving or sharing channels and the establishment of a nationwide interoperable emergency communications network.

That $3 billion measure is three times as much as Democrats were proposing in their version. The bill will now go to full committee for markup, where Democrats said they hoped they could negotiate compromises, though they got no promises from the Republican majority.

A separate Senate bill has passed the Commerce Committee and is awaiting a floor vote. If both are approved and signed into law by President Obama, the ensuing auction is projected to return at least $15 billion to the treasury for deficit reduction after paying out all

the expenses for the projects and reimbursements contained in the bill. (B&C)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: COPPS TO STEP DOWN AS FCC COMMISSIONER

FCC Commissioner Michael Coops has notified President Barack Obama that he plans to resign as an FCC Commissioner effective January 1, 2012. Amateur Radio Newsline's Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, has the details:

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Michael Copps is one of the longest seated FCC Commissioners. He has served in that position since May 2001 and in January 2009, he took on the additional role of acting FCC Chairman. That, following the resignation of then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin. Copps voluntarily relinquished the chairmanship to Julius Genachowski after the latter was sworn into office in June 2009.

His public letter of resignation gave no reason for his departure from the FCC, however Copps indicated that he plans to speak about broadband expansion and other issues as a private citizen. Copps has long been a vocal critic of media consolidation. In 2010 he was the only commissioner to vote against Comcast's takeover of NBC Universal.

If the Senate does not confirm a successor prior to Copps' departure, the FCC will be meeting with only three commissioners. At present, Chairman Julius Genachowski, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and the departing Copps are Democrats. By law, only three of the five Commissioners may be members of the same political party.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, watching the politics in D.C. from Zion, Illinois.

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Since June 2010 when Meredith Attwell Baker left the Commission, Robert McDowell has been the lone Republican commission member. (Published news reports)

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HAMVENTION NEWS: NO INCREASE IN FLEA MARKET SPACE COST IN 2012

The Dayton Hamvention has announced that Flea Market vendor space cost will not be changing in 2012. All in-aisle Flea Market vendor spaces will still be $70.00 each with end of aisle spaces remaining at $100.

Also, ham radio clubs can rent 4 spaces in a row or front to back, excluding end spaces, for $100. This after providing they supply proof that the club exists at time of payment.

Also those making club purchases are advised to do so directly with the Flea Market Sales Office and not on-line. This is because the Flea

Market Committee will have to adjust the prices before your payment is made.

For more information please contact the committee by e-mail to fleamarket (at) Hamvention (dot) org (Hamvention)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: 2012 QCWA NATIONAL CONVENTION TO TAKE PLACE IN RENO NEVADA

The first Western states Q-C-W-A National Convention in been over a decade will take place September 24th through the 27th in Reno, Nevada. The venue selected is the Harrah Hotel and Convention Center which is located in downtown Reno which is less than a block from the underground Amtrak train station. It also provides free shuttle service to and from the Reno International airport.

The convention is being hosted primarily by the Northern California Chapter 11 which is at this time soliciting assistance from other Western states QCWA groups. To volunteer your service or for more information on this upcoming event please contact the conventions chair by e-mail to WB6IMX (at) ATT (dot) net. (QCWA)

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HAM HAPPENINGS SATELLITE ARC CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

While this is short notice, the Satellite Amateur Radio Club at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the club and OSCAR-1 which it was formed to support in 1961. Operation will be on Saturday December 12th from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM Pacific time. The call to listen out for is W6AB using SSB on 80 through 10 meters. QSL information can be found on QRZ.com page for W6AB. (KA6BFB)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW VERSION OF ROS RELEASED

A new version of ROS data software has released by author Jos Alberto Nieto Ros, EA5HVK. The updates include improved performance for High Frequency N-V-I-S communications.

Also, as of December 1st the code structure of ROS HF was changed in

order to support mid to low band NVIS propagation. Versions prior to 6.8.4 will be incompatible with the latest version. There is no change to the Medium Frequency and E-M-E modes. You can download the new version of ROS from rosmodem.wordpress.com/2011/01/10/ros-2. (ROS)

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TECH TIP: A FREE ACCESSORY FOR YOUR iPHONE 4S

According to photographer and news photo-journalist Tony Buittitta, KD6AJG, your Apple ear buds can also be used as a cable release for the new iPhone 4S while using it as a camera. Tony says that you simply plug the supplied ear buds into the iPhone, launch the camera app, steady the shot using your favorite stand then squeeze the + button on the ear buds. Your iPhone 4S will take shot that is as steady as a rock. Tony adds that the best part is, the cable release comes included in the box. He says that this tip is especially great for long exposures. (KD6AJG)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NASA TO COVER ALL ASPECTS OF NEXT CREW TO ISS LIVE

NASA Television will cover Expedition 31 pre-launch activities, launch and docking to the International Space Station orbital laboratory during the next several weeks.

Expedition 30 NASA astronaut Don Pettit, KD5MDT, Russian Soyuz Commander Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX and European Space Agency Flight Engineer Andre Kuipers, PI9ISS are scheduled to launch on Dec. 21st at 7:16 a.m. Central Standard Time from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Their trip to the I-S-S will take two days. They are set to dock to the station at approximately 9:20 a.m. on Friday, December 23rd.

Pettit, Kononenko and Kuipers will join Expedition 30 Commander Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX, Russian Flight Engineers Anton Shkaplerov and Anatoly Ivanishin, who have been on the station since November 16th. The three will remain on the station until May as members of the Expedition 31 crew.

For a complete schedule of streaming netcast times please visit www.nasa.gov/ntv. (NASA)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FASTRAC 1 NEEDS YOUR HELP

The FASTRAC satellites have been in operation for more than a year and the team has been able to get a lot of data from them. But over the last month the team noticed that one of FASTRAC-1's on board microcontrollers which controls one of the experiments has not been booting up correctly. The team has done everything possible to correct this issue apart from turning it off which can only happen if the batteries fall below a specific charge level.

Since the satellites have been power positive throughout this whole year the only way this can happen is if the satellites transmit more often. Given that one of FASTRAC goals has always been to eventually provide a platform for amateur radio enthusiasts to use after the primary mission was over, the team has decided to open up FASTRAC-1 to the amateur radio community with the hope as more people use it to digipeat through the satellite, the battery levels will diminish and cause a hard reset of the microcontrollers on board.

The satellite is configured so that hams were able to begin using it to digipeat on December 2nd. To increase the chances of causing a hard reset, it was requested that as many amateur radio enthusiasts as possible try to digipeat through the satellite on the weekend of December 10th.

If you are successful at digipeating through the satellites or have any problems doing so please let us the team know by e-mail to fastracsats (at) gmail (dot) com or via the Facebook page www.facebook.com/fastracsats. (FASTRAC)

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RADIO IN SPACE: NEW WEATHER SAT TO COVER WEST COAST

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has a new weather satellite covering the west coast. GOES-15, which was launched last May has completed its certification process and is replacing the old GOES-11 in a fixed orbit over the Pacific Ocean located in a geostationary orbit midway between the U.S mainland and Hawaii.

GOES is an acronym that stands for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite. Originally slated for a five-year mission, GOES-11 has been serving meteorologists since 2000. Animation of the new GOES-15's water vapor imagery is available at tinyurl.com/goes-15

(NOAA)

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DX

In DX, an operation from Clipperton Island is being planned by the Cordell Expeditions for next year. Operations using the call TX5Q are expected to take place between March 10th and 15th of 2012. QSL's will be via N7CQQ.

SM6CPY will be active as 9X0PY from Rwanda between December 24th and January 7th, 2012. His operation will be holiday style on all bands but with a focus on 20 through 10 meters QSL to his home callsign, direct or via the bureau.

Seven Spanish amateur radio operators will be on the air active as AO1POL during the 9th Antarctic Activity Week between February 20th and the 26th, 2012. Their operation will be on 160 through 10 meters, including the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands. Modes to be use include CW,

SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via EA1GHT.

KH0UY and KH0K will be operational from Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands between January 7th to the 10th. Their activity will be on 80 through 6 meters, plus the satellites. QSL via their home callsigns of JO3FRH and JE4SMQ, either direct or by the bureau.

Lastly, WA0ROI will be active as stroke WP2 from St. Croix through December 13th. QSL to WA0ROI, direct, via the bureau or electronically using Logbook of the World.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A HAMS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS FROM KN4AQ

Just in time for the Christmas season, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of Amateur Radio Video News has created a video version of Clement Clark Moore's poem The Night Before Christmas. But Gary's version has a decidedly Amateur Radio twist. With a guitar accompaniment by Don Mercz, WA3AYR, "A Ham's Night Before Christmas" features QST magazine covers and Christmas-themed advertisements from days gone by. We asked Gary how it all came about:

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KN4AQ: "Years ago; back in the early 1990's the first two lines of the poem ".twas the night before Christmas and through 2 meters, not a signal was keying up any repeaters' just ram over abd over and over through my head. I didn't any of the rest of the poem written at that time. And for several year I thought `.I've go to do this."

"And then I was talking to a friend of mine about this and she volunteered to get me the rest of the poem. And I transcribed the lines from the original Clement Clark Moore poem into the ham radio version.

"I think my version goes on longer than the original. I have not looked at them side by side. I performed it at a local radio club for several years just live in front of the club. Finally I recorded it at an audio studio I work at."

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So how did it go from a poem to a video? Again, Gary Pearce KN4AQ:

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KN4AQ: "Last year I got a Christmas present from another friend; a ham who did the guitar accompaniment and I thought that would make a perfect accompaniment. And I thought that would make a perfect background to the poem. So I put them together.

"Then I thought `.well I do video for a living and I really need to

make a video out of this one. So what can I use for pictures? I really cannot afford to go out and shoot pictures. I can't get actors. Animation would be cool but that's expensive and time consuming. And then I thought that QST often does a Christmas oriented cover for their December issue. And I know people at QST and Ill ask permission, and they did. But there were not enough of them, so I thought that I will go for the ads as well. The ads are often Christmas themed. So I pulled those out.

"I edited it together and I found a surprising number of images that fit the poem pretty well."

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So KN4AQ used his skill as a video editor and produced a video that we think could easily go viral and become a true ham radio holiday classic. If you want to enjoy a few minutes of seasonal joy, you can watch Gary's video is on-line at tinyurl.com/KN4AQ-Night-Before-Christmas. (KN4AQ)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

Please don't forget that Tuesday morning, December 27th, is the kick-off of the ARRL's new Do It Yourself public relations campaign and the release of the video "The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio." More on this will be on-line at www dot arrl dot org as the date approaches.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, in Vero Beach, Florida, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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